

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording device which has a first ink tank for storing an ink, a second ink tank capable of being separated from/connected to the first ink tank through an ink supply path, and a recording head for jetting an ink supplied from the second ink tank, and which carries out recording by jetting an ink from the recording head to a recording medium, the ink jet recording device comprising:

measuring means for measuring an elapsed time from an end of the previous recording; and

supplying means for supplying an ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank,

wherein the ~~ink~~ supplying means supplies the ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank if the elapsed time measured by the measuring means is less than a first threshold value; otherwise supplies the ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank after a residual ink is jetted from the second ink tank, if the elapsed time is not less than the first threshold value and less than a second threshold value; and otherwise supplies the ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank, and jets the ink from the second ink tank to supply the ink again, if the elapsed time is not less than the second threshold value.

2. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 1, wherein if the elapsed time is not less than the second threshold value, the ink supplying means

supplies the ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank, and jets the ink from the second ink tank after an elapse of a predetermined time.

3. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined time is 3 seconds or more.

4. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 1, wherein the supplying of the ink by the ink supplying means is carried out before a start of recording.

5. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 1, further comprising: a pump for generating a negative pressure in the second ink tank, wherein the pump is driven when the ink is supplied from the first ink tank to the second ink tank, or when the ink is jetted from the second ink tank.

6. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 1, further comprising: a timer operated by a battery, wherein the measuring means measures the elapsed time based on time information obtained from the timer.

7. (Original) The ink jet recording device according to claim 1, wherein the measuring means obtains time information from a timer which a device connected to the outside of the recording device has, and measures the elapsed time based on the time information.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An ink supplying method in an ink jet recording device which has a first ink tank for storing an ink, a second ink tank capable of being separated from/connected to the first ink tank through an ink supply path, and a recording head for jetting an ink supplied from the second ink tank, and which carries out recording by jetting an ink from the recording head to a recording medium, the ink supplying method comprising:

a measuring step of measuring an elapsed time from an end of previous recording;

a comparing step of comparing the elapsed time measured in the measuring step with a first threshold value or a second threshold value; and

a supplying step of supplying an ink from the first ink tank to the second ink tank in accordance with a result of the comparison in the comparing step,

wherein in the ~~ink~~ supplying step, the ink is supplied from the first ink tank to the second ink tank if the elapsed time is less than the first threshold value; otherwise the ink is supplied from the first ink tank to the second ink tank after a residual ink is jetted from the second ink tank, if the elapsed time is not less than the first threshold value and it is less than the second threshold value; and otherwise the ink is supplied from the first ink tank to the second ink tank, and the ink is jetted from the second ink tank to supply the ink again, if the elapsed time is not less than the second threshold value.

10. (Original) The ink supplying method according to claim 9, wherein in the ink supplying step, if the elapsed time is not less than the second threshold value, the ink is supplied from the first ink tank to the second ink tank, and the ink is jetted from the second ink tank after an elapse of a predetermined time.